



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Required Report - public distribution

**Date:** 9/18/2006

**GAIN Report Number:** UK6031

## United Kingdom

### Agricultural Situation

### UK Parliamentary Committee Report on Role of Bioenergy

**2006**

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**Report Highlights:**

The UK Parliamentary Committee on Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) has just completed its report regarding the potential role of bioenergy in meeting UK climate change targets. The UK government has set a goal to reach 5 percent inclusion of biofuel in road transport fuel by 2010/11. EFRA has now released its report "Climate change: The role of bioenergy".

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
London [UK1]  
[UK]

## Background

In December 2005, a UK Parliamentary Committee – the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee (EFRA) began to gather information about the potential role of bioenergy in meeting UK climate change targets. Over the last nine months, EFRA has reviewed the potential for biomass (for heat and electricity) and biofuels (for transport). The Committee heard verbal evidence from many interested parties, including the automobile industry, and also conducted a written consultation period. Key areas of discussion include availability of land, land use and biodiversity.

## Latest Development

EFRA has now released its report entitled "Climate change: The role of bioenergy". The report is available at: [www.parliament.uk/efracom](http://www.parliament.uk/efracom)

The report expresses concern that the UK is lagging behind other countries in promoting the use of bioenergy. In the report, the Members of Parliament on the committee urge the government to look beyond its existing 5 percent target for biofuels in road transport, and to promote bioenergy for home heating, aviation, and other uses.

On the flip side EFRA notes that this might make land for growing biocrops scarce, and it may have a negative impact on plant and animal diversity. However, the second generation of biofuels can offer greater carbon savings than current biofuels along with the added advantage of exploiting a wider range of biomass. Second generation biofuels include organic waste such as wood chips, chicken litter and straw, and would help alleviate land pressure for food crops, such as wheat or corn.

The report points out that UK government support for bioenergy initiatives is disjointed, with allowances and grant schemes available through an array of different providers. The Committee concludes that much more effective co-operation between UKG departments is needed if the targets are to be achieved. The report calls for a Ministerial position in the Cabinet to co-ordinate policy initiatives regarding climate change.